



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 6 January 2012

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**CO EUR-PREP 1
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NOTE

from: The Presidency
to: COREPER/Council

Subject: European Council
- Roadmap on the implementation of the European Semester

Delegations will find below the above-mentioned roadmap as presented by the Presidency.

ROADMAP ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EUROPEAN SEMESTER

Following the practice established in 2011, this roadmap outlines the key steps of the European Semester in 2012. The objective is to ensure that all relevant Council formations work in a coordinated manner towards a thorough preparation of the March and June European Councils. It is divided in two phases: the first, with more details, until the March 2012 European Council, and the second, more indicative, for the period between the European Council meetings in March and June 2012. After the March European Council, an updated roadmap will be presented if needed.

FIRST PHASE: preparation of the March European Council

17, 18, 24, 26, 30, 31 January: Bilateral meetings between the Commission and Member States

24 January: Economic and Financial Affairs Council

- Annual Growth Survey: exchange of views

31 January: General Affairs Council

- Preparation of the March European Council: annotated draft agenda
- Exchange of views on the Europe 2020 Strategy/Annual Growth Survey

10 February: Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council

- Orientation debate, based on a Presidency note, on the Europe 2020 strategy/Annual Growth Survey, in particular as concerns the education targets and the relevant flagship initiatives ("Youth on the move", "An Agenda for new skills and jobs").
- In the same context, assessment of national level progress regarding the implementation of commitments under the Euro Plus Pact

14 February: Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council (Energy)

- Orientation debate, based on a Presidency note, on the Europe 2020 strategy/Annual Growth Survey, in particular as concerns the energy efficiency and renewable energy targets

17 February: Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council

- Orientation debate, based on a Presidency note, on the Europe 2020 Strategy/Annual Growth Survey, in particular as concerns employment and poverty targets and the relevant flagship initiatives ("Youth on the move", "An Agenda for new skills and jobs", "European Platform against Poverty")
- Adoption of Joint Employment Report (JER) and Council conclusions on political guidance on employment policies
- Endorsement of the Report of the Social Protection Committee on the assessment of the social dimension of the Europe 2020 strategy
- Employment Guidelines (political agreement)
- Endorsement of the opinion of the Social Protection Committee on the Annual Growth Survey

20-21 February: Competitiveness Council

- Orientation debates, based on Presidency notes, on the Europe 2020 Strategy/Annual Growth Survey, in particular as concerns the research and development target and the relevant flagship initiatives ("An industrial policy for the globalisation era", "Resource efficient Europe", "Innovation Union")
- In the same context, assessment of national level progress regarding the implementation of commitments under the Euro Plus Pact

21 February: Economic and Financial Affairs Council

- Adoption of Council conclusions on macroeconomic and fiscal guidance, including Euro Plus Pact
- Discussion and overall assessment of the Commission's Alert Mechanism Report on macroeconomic imbalances (exchange of views/Council conclusions)

28 February: General Affairs Council

- Preparation of the March European Council:
 - Draft European Council conclusions
 - Synthesis Report on the European Semester

1-2 March: EUROPEAN COUNCIL

- Assessment of progress made in implementing country-specific recommendations and commitments under the Euro Plus Pact
- Guidance to Member States on the 2012 Stability and Convergence Programmes and National Reform Programmes
- Guidance to Commission and the Council on the implementation of flagship initiatives

SECOND PHASE: after the March European Council

9 March: Environment Council

- Information from the Presidency and the Commission on the European Semester, in particular as concerns the climate target and relevant flagship initiatives ("Resource efficient Europe")

26 March: General Affairs Council

- Follow-up to the European Council, including, as appropriate, an updated Presidency roadmap on the implementation of the 2012 European Semester

by mid-April: Further to the guidance provided by the European Council, Member States submit their National Reform Programmes, as well as their Stability and Convergence Programmes, also containing their commitments under the Euro Plus Pact for participating Member States.

May: adoption (A item) of decision approving the Employment Guidelines for 2012

29 May: General Affairs Council

- Preparation of June European Council (annotated draft agenda)

End May: Commission to present its proposals for the country opinions and the country-specific recommendations.

21-22 June: Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council

- Council recommendations on Member States' employment policies
- Implementation of the employment aspects of the Europe 2020 Strategy, including 2012 National Reform Programmes and Commission initiatives related to employment flagships.

22 June: Economic and Financial Affairs Council

- Council recommendation on the implementation of broad economic policy guidelines for Member States whose currency is the euro
- Council recommendations on Member States' National Reform Programmes and delivering a Council opinion on the updated Stability and Convergence Programmes taking into account also the Commission in-depth review of possible macroeconomic imbalances
- (poss) Council decision on initiating any excessive imbalance procedures (EIP), if so recommended by the Commission

26 June General Affairs Council

- Preparation of the European Council (draft conclusions)
- Approval of integrated country-specific recommendations and transmission to European Council

28-29 June: EUROPEAN COUNCIL

- Endorsement of integrated country-specific recommendations

July: formal adoption of integrated country-specific recommendations
